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Thank you for visiting Richard M. Nixon County Park!

Nixon County Park and Nature Center is one of 11 York County Parks. Nixon County Park is open all year round and admission is free except for special events. The nature center features a museum collection of wildlife mounts, interactive nature exhibits, a library, bird-watching windows, live reptiles, and a demonstration bee hive.

Park Hours:

Walking Trails are open 8 am to dusk daily.
Trails are closed to dogs, bikes, and horses.
There is no hunting at Nixon County Park.

Nature Center and Gift Shop Hours:

8:30am-4:30pm Tuesday– Saturday

12:00-4:30pm Sundays

Closed Mondays and Holidays

Park Address:

5922 Nixon Drive

York, PA 17403

See our website calendar for a list of special events
and nature programs offered throughout the year:

www.yorkcountyparks.org

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Nixon Park Nature Center Scavenger Hunt

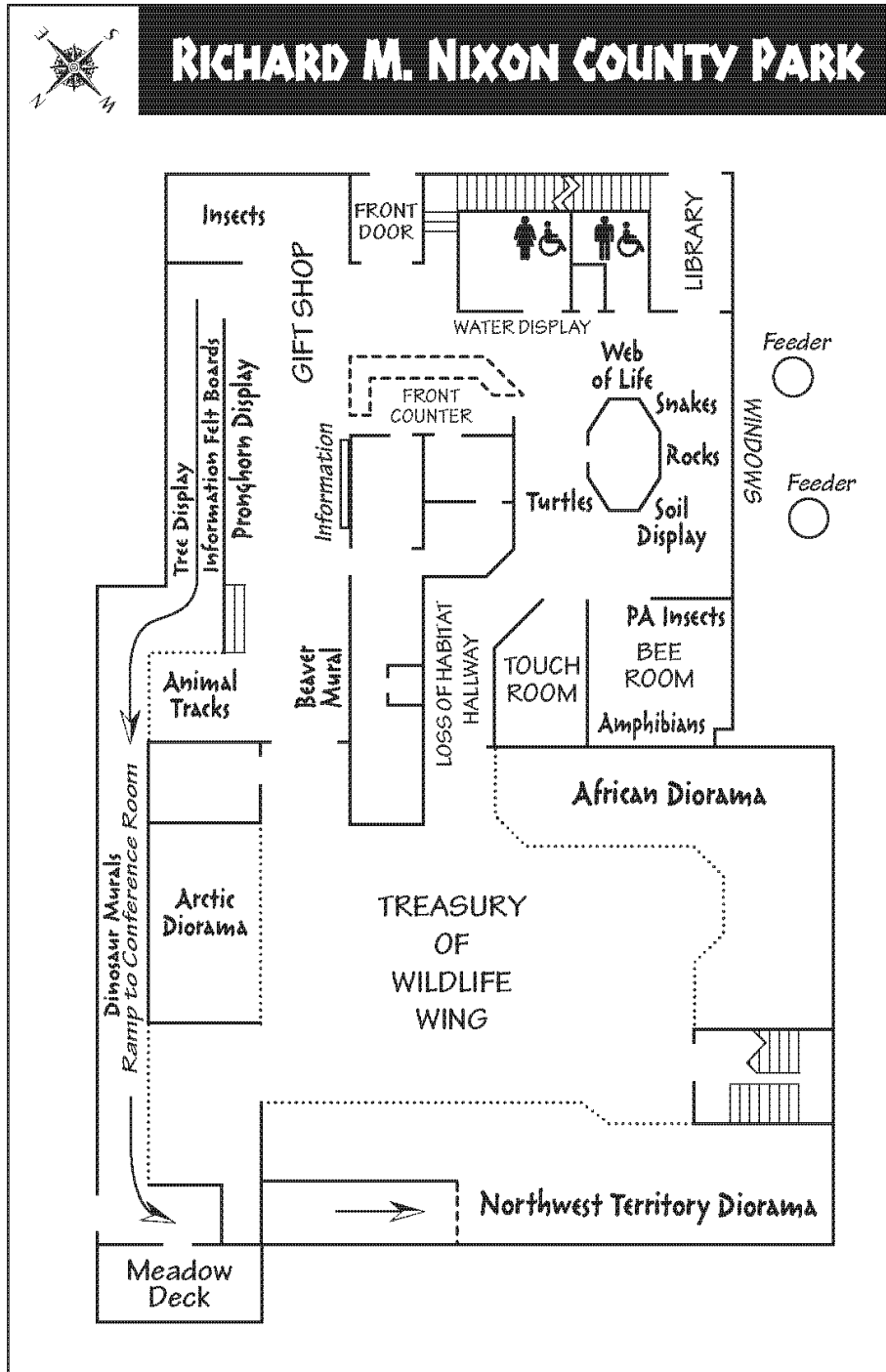
*Recommended for
4th grade and up*

Name: _____



Nixon Park Nature Center

Floor Plan of the Nature Center



Vocabulary Glossary

dragonflies, and butterflies. Insects are one type of arthropod.

Insect Relative– Other animals in the group arthropoda. They have exoskeletons and jointed legs. Examples include centipedes, millipedes, spiders, and crustaceans like crabs.

Metamorphosis– When an animal changes from one shape to a different shape as it grows. For instance, caterpillars metamorphose into butterflies and tadpoles metamorphose into frogs.

Omnivore– An animal that eats plants, other animals, and sometimes other foods like fungi.

Predator– An animal that eats other animals.

Prey– An animal that is eaten by other animals.

Sedimentary– A rock that forms when mineral and rock particles are compressed together for a long period of time.

Warm-blooded or Endothermic– an animal that can keep itself the same temperature no matter what temperature the environment around it is. Mammals and birds are warm-blooded.

Vocabulary Glossary

Some of the bolded words in your booklet are defined here.

Amphibian– A cold-blooded animal with thin, moist skin. Salamanders, frogs, and toads are amphibians.

Camouflage– Blending in with ones environment; an adaptation to escape predators.

Carnivore– An animal which eats a diet of other animals or meat.

Cold-blooded or Exothermic– An animal whose body is the same temperature as their surroundings. Cold-blooded animals change temperature by moving to warmer or cooler places. Reptiles, Amphibians, Fish, and Insects are some cold-blooded animals.

Exoskeleton– A hardened skin that holds a body's shape instead of internal bones.

Habitat– A place where animals or plants live. Habitats need to have food, water, shelter and space.

Herbivore– An animal which eats a diet of plants.

Insects– Animals that have six legs, three body parts and an exoskeleton. Examples include bees,

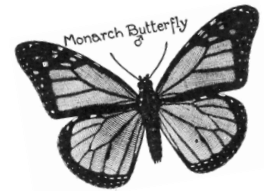


(Insects of the World Exhibit next to front door)

Insects!

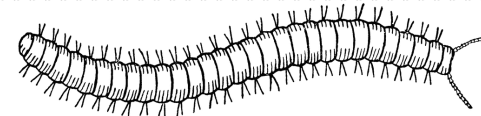
Some insects avoid being eaten by disguising themselves as a natural object (**camouflage**).

What are three things insects disguise themselves as?

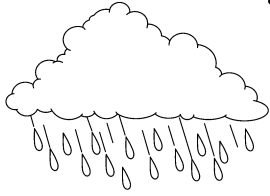


What is **mimicry**? _____

Insect Relatives have a crunchy **exoskeleton** and jointed legs, just like insects. Name three "insect relatives": _____

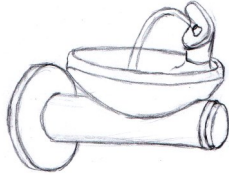


Raindrops to Drinking Water



(Next to the water fountain)

What is a watershed?



What is the name of the watershed in the mural?

Circle the ways YOU can help conserve water.

- * Wash toys, cars, and bikes outside with a bucket instead of the hose.
- * Turn off the water while brushing teeth and washing hands.
- * Take short showers instead of a bath.
- * Don't water the lawn too often.
- * Don't flush trash down the toilet.



The water meter measures how much water is used each day at Nixon Park.



How much water was used yesterday? _____ GAL

How much water has been used today? _____ GAL

When was more water used? Today or Yesterday?

Learn more at home: <http://www.epa.gov/WaterSense/kids/index.html>

Lower Ramp Antler Exhibit

Put an "A" in front of the phrases that best describe antlers. Put an "H" in front of those that best describe horns.



- _____ Are shed every year
- _____ Are attached for life
- _____ Made of keratin, like our hair
- _____ Made of bone
- _____ Found on males of the deer family
- _____ Found on male and female caribou
- _____ Found on sheep, goats, and antelope



Which horned animal sheds the outer part of its horn during the fall?

TREE DISPLAY (on the ramp)

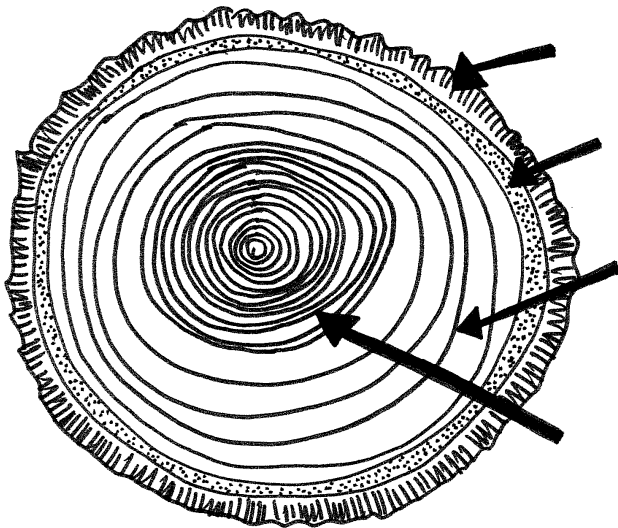
How old is the oldest tree on display? _____

On the white oak, what happened in 1839?

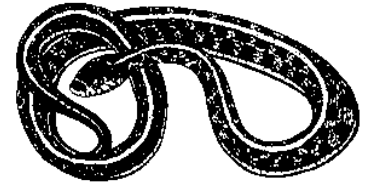
Look at the poster. What happened in 1930?

What 3 factors influence the size of the tree?

Label the parts of the tree!



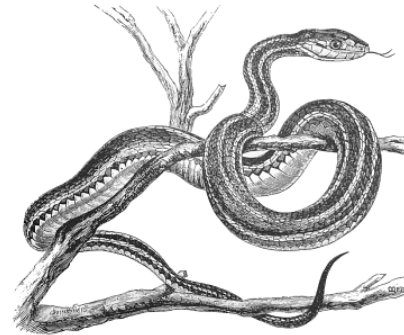
Pennsylvania's Snakes



(Next to big windows)

Snakes are *cold-blooded* or *exothermic*.

How do *exothermic* animals warm up?



A snake uses his tongue
to _____ and
_____.

Are snakes *herbivores*,
omnivores, or *carnivores*?

What do they eat?

Snakes are food (*prey*) for many different
predators. What are some snake predators?



Rocks (across from big windows)

Conglomerates are **sedimentary** rocks containing rounded pebbles, such as the High Terrace Gravel (54). Can you find two more conglomerates on the rock wall?



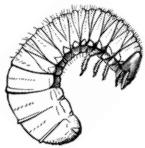
How long ago was the oldest rock on the wall formed? _____ years ago

Soil... It's not just dirt!

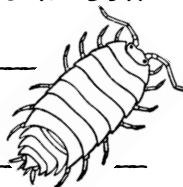
It takes _____ years for one inch of soil to form!

Soil layers are called _____.

The loosening and movement of **soil** by wind and water is called _____.



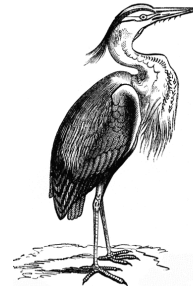
List three tiny animals that live in soil.



Animal Tracks

(Across from the beaver exhibit)

Draw a line connecting the animal to its footprint.



Threatened & Endangered Species

(In the Loss of Habitat Hallway)

In order to survive, animals need to have a healthy habitat with adequate food, water, shelter, and space. When any of those needs can't be met, animal populations decline.

What are 2 factors that contributed to the River Otter's decline?

1. _____
2. _____

Habitat loss is the number one reason for wildlife decline.

What can you do in your backyard to help wildlife?

1. _____
2. _____



When did the last Passenger Pigeon die?

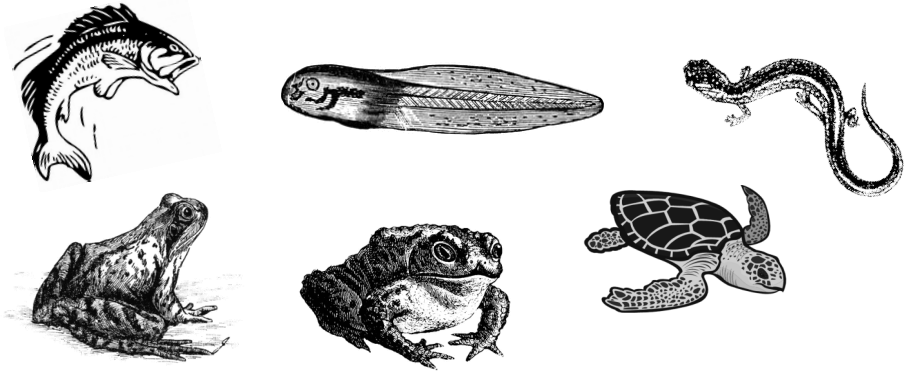
Were your grandparents, great-grandparents or great-great-grandparents alive that year?

Amphibians

(Next to the beehive)

Amphibians have thin, moist skin and go through metamorphosis as they grow.

Circle the amphibians below.



Amphibians are sensitive to changes and pollutants in their habitats. Scientists can tell if an area is polluted by looking for healthy amphibian life. What is another reason amphibians are valuable?

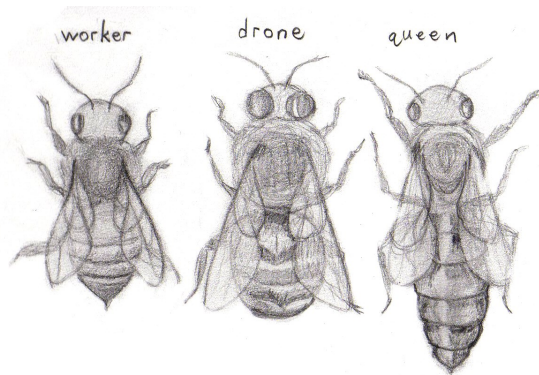
There are lots of ways you can improve amphibian habitat. What is one thing you could do at home?



Honeybees

(Find the live hive)

There are three kinds of honeybees in a hive.

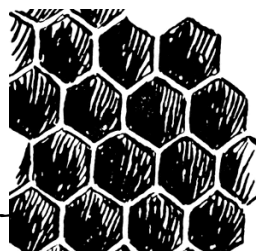


Which kind of bee can lay as many as 1,800 eggs a day? _____

Which kind of bee doesn't have a stinger? _____

Which kind of bee is female, but doesn't lay eggs? _____

How do bees keep cool? _____



Worker bees do lots of different jobs. What are three important jobs worker bees do?

Meadow Deck

(Between Arctic and Northwest)



Step outside onto our deck overlooking the garden.

Close your eyes and listen. Write down any sounds you hear.





What do you smell?

Draw a picture of something you see.



African Savannah

(In the Treasury of Wildlife)

Match the African animal to the camouflage pattern it uses to survive.



Leopard

Solid dark spots to hide in brush and low grasses.

Zebra

Black stripe on side to break up animal's shape out in the open.

Cheetah

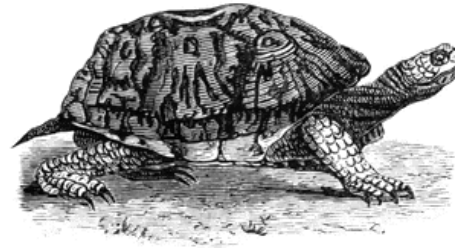
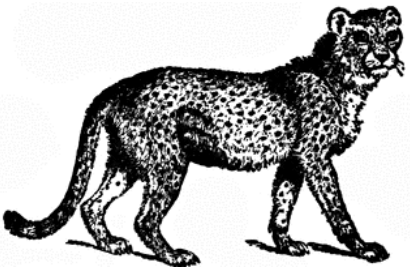
Black and white stripes, so animals moving together will confuse a predator.

Steinbok

Dark spots with light centers for night hunting.

Challenge Question:

What adult animal in the diorama has no natural predators— except humans— in Africa?



Pennsylvania Turtles

(Next to the soil exhibit)

How many different kinds of turtles live in Pennsylvania? (circle) 5 8 14 25 50 100

Why do we often see turtles basking in the sun?

Circle T for true or F for false:

T F Turtles have dry, scaly skin.

T F Turtles can crawl out of their shell.

T F Pet turtles are easy to take care of.

T F Turtles have a home range or territory.

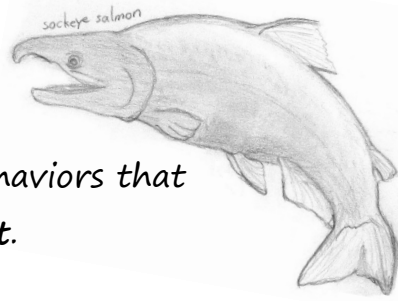
T F Turtles lay their eggs in water.

Northwest

(In the Treasury of Wildlife)

Animals have special traits or behaviors that help them survive in their habitat.

These are called adaptations.



Can you find the animals that have these adaptations?

She's very big, but has babies almost as small as mice: _____

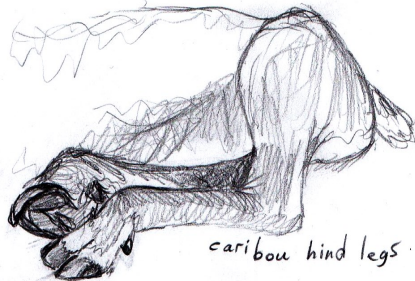
They are thought to be the strongest animal for their size: _____

This animal will fly directly into snow banks to sleep under the snow: _____

This animal can live in fresh water its whole life, or swim out to the sea: _____



Hooves are an adaptation for animals that run. Caribou have hooves which help them walk on ice, snow, and spongy bogs. Can you find three other animals in the Northwest display that have hooves?



Arctic

(In the Treasury of Wildlife)

The diorama depicts the arctic in springtime, which may last only _____ weeks, and temperatures remain about _____°F. Plants and animals that live in the Arctic have adaptations that help them survive.

A walrus uses its tusks to: _____

Musk oxen stand in a circle to: _____

Lynx have "snowshoe" feet to help them: _____

Snowshoe Hares, Gyrfalcons, Ermine,

Lemmings and Ptarmigans all do this to help them camouflage: _____

